Discount on incremental loading

1482. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to withdraw 10 per cent surcharge on carriage of goods on mini-rakes and two point rakes in the Railways;

(b) whether his Ministry has also announced 30 per cent discount on incremental loading on empty flow trains till 2010;

(c) if so, the extent of loss that Railways are going to incur due to above two measures;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Railways is planning to lease out some terminals to companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Sir, Ministry of Railways has withdrawn 10 per cent supplementary surcharge on commodities having classification above Class 130 when transported in Mini-rakes and Two Point Rakes *w.e.f.* 20.5.2007.

(b) Sir, Ministry of Railways has announced 30 per cent freight discount on incremental earning in traditional empty flow directions under the Incentive Scheme for Traditional Empty Flow Direction. The incremental earning upto 31.3.2010 will be calculated with respect to earning in corresponding month of the year 2005-06.

(c) Sir, the above two measures were undertaken to attract more traffic and optimum utilization of railway wagons in traditional empty flow direction. Accordingly, Railways do not anticipate any loss due to these measures.

(d) No, Sir. Presently, there is no policy for leasing out railway terminals to companies.

(e) Does not arise.

CAG on overloading in wagons

†1483. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CAG has commented to the Railway Department regarding overloading in wagons;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CAG has observed that a danger has been posed to the security of rolling stocks, bridges imd railway tracks due to this overloading;

(c) if so, the comments of CAG in this regard and the response of Government thereto; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government are taking any steps for the protection of rolling stocks, bridges and railway tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. *Vide* Para 1.8.1of its Report No. 6 of 2007, CAG has made certain comments regarding overloading of wagons. Recommendations of CAG are as under:

"Since loading of wagons beyond permitted axle load limits is likely to damage rolling stock as well as track, Railways should take urgent steps to complete the installation of weigh bridges at all the loading points and strengthening the monitoring mechanism as envisaged. Since the increase in permissible axle load reduces the leeway available, no overloading whatsoever should be permitted as this would have serious impact on track."

CAG's comments are being examined in Ministry of Railways.

(d) Inputs such as Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD), Wheel Impact Load Detector (WILD), bridge instrumentation etc. and maintenance requirements are being given as per requirement for higher axle load operation. Indian Railway has installed 106 Electronic In-motion weigh bridges to check the wagons for overloading, if any, for protection of wagons.

Construction at New **Delhi station**

1484. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the construction work at New Delhi railway station is likely to be completed; and

(b) what steps are being taken to reduce the pressure on New Delhi station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The following developmental works have been planned for execution at New Delhi railway station:

(1) Development of New Delhi yard (phases III, IV and V) planned for completion by March, 2008; and

(2) Construction of new station building on Ajmeri Gate side planned for completion by September, 2008.

In order to reduce pressure on New Delhi railway station, following measures have been taken by the Railways:

> A new passenger terminal at Anand Vihar railway station has been planned for construction. In the first Phase, 3 platforms have been planned at Anand Vihar to cater to long distance passenger trains;

> Two island platforms have been planned at New Delhi. The existing foot over bridge no. 3 which presently connects platform no. 12 to platform no. 6 has been planned for extension to cover all platforms at New Delhi railway station;